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2008 Legislative Session Preview



Dear Neighbors,

The short 60-day legislative session is underway. That means all of the bills from last year have one more shot at becoming law, along with a new batch that my colleagues and I have been developing since then.

In a short session, the pace is extremely fast, the atmosphere is intense, and the hours are long. Just finding the time to get three (nutritious) meals a day is a challenge. I know our work will keep Washington a great place to live and work; from progressive health care initiatives and educational opportunity, to a clean environment and job creation, we lead the nation in our quality of life.

As always, your input helps me better represent you in Olympia. My office door in Olympia is always open to my neighbors in the 11th Legislative District, and I'm continuously gathering ideas from folks in the community. So whether it's by filling out one of my online surveys or during a friendly chat down at a local restaurant in Georgetown, I want to know what you think.

And, as always, thank you for the opportunity to serve our communities in the Legislature.

Zack Hudgins



Rep. Zack Hudgins • D-11th District

Some results from our last newsletter's survey

How do you think Washington State is doing?

Heading in the right direction

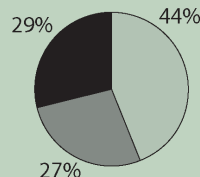
44%

Wrong direction

27%

Not sure

29%



How do you think America is doing?

Heading in the right direction

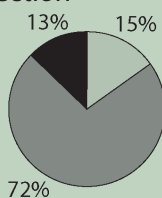
15%

Wrong direction

72%

Not sure

13%



Grade the Legislature on these issues:

Education: A 5% B 23% C 35%

D 28% F 5%

Job Creation: A 6% B 26% C 43%

D 15% F 10%

Recently, Forbes magazine, a national business publication ranked the business climate in Washington the fifth best in the nation. What's the most important thing we can do to build on that success and help your business or employer prosper?

8% Encourage greater tourism

35% Help businesses attract and keep qualified workers

57% Find ways to lower health care costs

How do you think we could improve public schools?

16% Pre-school and all-day kindergarten for every child

34% Reduce class size

30% Provide better pay to teachers

15% Offer vouchers for private schools

5% Other

Holding the Port Accountable

Last year I worked with a number of legislators to introduce six bills that would protect jobs and increase accountability at the Port of Seattle. After holding hearings looking at the port's operations, a number of new issues came to light. We worked into the interim, and asked the State Auditor to do a full audit of all work at the Port of Seattle. Many of us knew the audit of just the third runway project would bring up many issues and we wanted to look at the port's entire operation. This year we will have many new bills that again look at **protecting the largest economic engine in our region while ensuring accountability.**

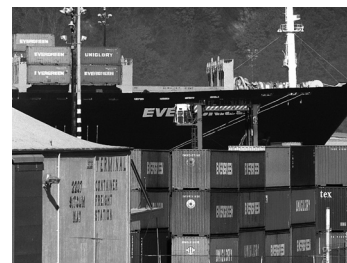


Last year's proposals –

- Salary Cap on the CEO
- Create districts within King County
- Set salaries by a public commission
- Set limits on how Port property is 'surplused'
- Remove the Port's ability to bank taxing capacity
- Allow the Port to get its banked tax capacity at only 3% a year

This year –

- Make the port implement the State Auditor's recommendations
- Take away their ability to use eminent domain
- Not allow the Port to use tax dollars to lobby
- Take away the Port's ability to create a port association
- Make the elected commission a full time job, to increase staff accountability
- Require all executive sessions be recorded
- No dumping of dredged material in Puget Sound



We need to protect our region's jobs, and we can't do that if the Port of Seattle is being run poorly. I plan to continue pointing out what I think needs to be changed at the Port as the new CEO and the new commissioners try to move the Port away from scandals and towards accountability. Keep watching our work, the newspaper coverage, and the Department of Justice's investigation.

2008 Legislative Session Preview

Protecting our Health from Dangerous Chemicals

Everyone knows that lead is bad for humans. Unfortunately, every day reveals another children's toy or product containing the toxic metal. During this session of the legislature, the Environmental Health committee will continue to look for ways to protect us from harmful



poisons. It isn't an easy fight. For the first time, a legislative committee has come to our neighborhoods in the 11th district to look at the superfund sites on the Duwamish, and visit the tire burning in local concrete factories. It's led to some insightful meetings and good ideas for achieving results for a cleaner environment and safer human health. I was proud to lead these efforts as the top-ranking Democrat on this new committee.



Zack talks with Craig, of the Ash Grove Cement Company, about their efforts to emit cleaner emissions from their Duwamish plant.

Fighting Lead Poisoning in our Communities

Did you know that because of a strange loophole in the law, an item labeled as 'lead free' can still contain up to 8% lead? We will push for stronger labeling laws that



show the actual amount of lead contained in our products.

This year, we'll fight to get wheel weights changed from lead to steel - preventing millions

of pounds of lead dust ending up in our air and water when the weights fall off and end up on the roadways.

We know that children are exposed to lead in a variety of products, from imported candy, toys, pesticides, and paint, as well as in many industrial emissions. **Currently only five percent of kids in our state are tested for lead exposure.** If our goal is to reduce lead exposure, then we have to know who is being exposed and how. I'm going to work to fund more lead testing.



Ultimately, it comes down to a business decision somewhere along the production line for companies making products designed for children: Will they clean up their act or keep parents in the dark about the contents of their product? If a toymaker decides the latter, then I want to keep their toys out of our state and penalize the company for making that bad business decision. These companies should pay for giving our children toxic toys.

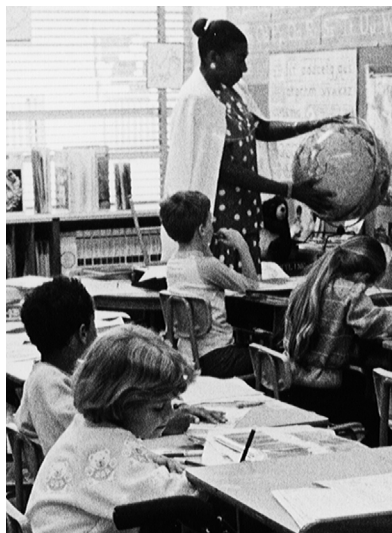
Watch for these bills and others as the new Environmental Health committee works to take on polluters and get toxins out of our communities.

This Year's Goals

We are well on our way to making sure every child in our state has health insurance. **This year, we are going to focus on helping small businesses afford health insurance for their families and their employees.**



We're also taking steps to ensure that every child enters kindergarten ready to learn, **and every student leaves school with the skills needed to succeed in life and work.**



We're also going to help emerging technology industries thrive. I'm making sure that we identify clean technology sectors that could benefit from state action, through my involvement on the state Biofuels Advisory Task Force.

GETTING INVOLVED –

Call this number,
give me a piece of your mind
1-800-562-6000



Where to get more info:

<http://housedemocrats.wa.gov/members/hudgins/>

www.tvw.org